

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006
1:00 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

Mental Health Center (063)

Present was Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Administrator, and Judi Tannahill, Administrative Services Officer.

Settle distributed a memorandum regarding his budget (Exhibit A) and indicated he would like to add one additional FTE as an Office Automation Specialist to backup/cross train with Judi Tannahill, who will retire in the future. Settle is also requesting two additional hours for the APRN Nurse Practitioner because of the retirement of Dr. Bahr.

Schorr asked if Region V should be handling all the housing.

Settle said they have been utilizing housing for the past 25 years, but it would be something to look at.

Heier asked if the County should be in the apartment business.

Settle believes public entities shouldn't be competing with the private sector. He said his office is screening each person that is placed in an apartment where they are taught how to cook, shop and maintain an independent lifestyle living in an apartment.

General Assistance (803)/Veterans Affairs (801)

Present was Gary Chalupa, Veterans Services Officer.

Kroeker distributed documentation regarding the Primary Care Medical Program (Exhibit B) and indicated the primary care contract is actually \$301,292 instead of \$315,000, with the possibility of decreasing another \$10,000.

Chalupa indicated Douglas County currently gives oral surgeries through Creighton at the Medicaid rate and perhaps Lancaster County would be able to go through the University Dental College at the Medicaid rate also. He also noted they are doing less burials and more cremations.

Chalupa reported there was an end of year adjustment of \$57,650 made for the two positions that were added to his office, which makes up for part of the increase. His budget still shows an overall increase of 10.49%.

Community Corrections (625)

Present was Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director.

Etherton distributed documentation regarding the Department of Community Corrections Budget (Exhibits C & D) and said the Drug Court funding for personnel costs will be reimbursed by September, 2006, in the amount of \$153,394 which will reduce the expense budget.

Etherton said she would like one additional FTE for 2007.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to authorize Kim Etherton to hire a case worker on or after July 1, 2006. Heier, Stevens, Workman and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board agreed to add \$43,503 into the budget for the new employee and decrease \$100,000 from the budget.

Lancaster Manor (061)

Present was Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to enter into Executive Session at 2:21 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Stevens, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to exit Executive Session at 2:25 p.m. Workman, Heier, Schorr and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Van Hunnik briefly discussed expenditures noting that total salary and benefits is 87% of their budget, 12% of the budget is operations and 1% of the budget is equipment/leases. Areas highlighted by Van Hunnik were as follows:

Expense Budget

- Administration
- Food Service
- Nursing Administration
- Resident Services
- Transportation

Revenue Budget

- Operating & Ancillary Revenue
- Revenues 2006-2007

Van Hunnik also noted there is supposed to be an increase of approximately \$5 a day per diem, but they are already underfunded at \$11 a day.

Kroeker indicated \$158,220 may need to be advanced to Lancaster Manor for the Building rental due July, 2007.

Van Hunnik said the State is holding onto \$700,000 of Lancaster Manor's money, which they won't receive until June 15, 2006. He noted the State receives the money in January, accrues the interest and doesn't give the money to the County until June.

MOTION: Workman moved and Heier seconded to have Kerry Eagan draft a letter to the Governor expressing the County Board's concern regarding future delays and payments to Lancaster Manor.

Kroeker explained the monies will be received by June 15, 2006 and in the future the delay needs to be addressed sooner.

The maker of the motion and the seconder withdrew their motions.

Kroeker distributed documentation regarding Lancaster Manor's budget (Exhibit E).

Discussion followed regarding the addition of \$1,000,000 into the Contingency Fund.

Van Hunnik also noted that the vacancy rate is down because a lot of people are going into assisted living.

Human Services (837)

Present was Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator.

Boesch distributed documentation regarding the Human Services budget (Exhibit F) and indicated there were no significant changes to the budget.

Boesch said they have been awarded a methamphetamine grant in the amount of \$75,000 and are waiting on 2 Federal and 2 State grants.

Youth Services Center/Youth Assessment Center (678)

Present was Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center Director; and Melissa Hood, Administrative Aide II.

Schindler distributed documentation regarding the Youth Services Center budget (Exhibit G) and indicated the Chinn Plan that was done in 1998 projected that if Lancaster County had no alternatives in place by 2007, the YSC would use only 77 secure beds, however if alternatives were in place, it was projected that the YSC would need 90 to 100 secure beds in the next 10 to 15 years, which is in 2008. Schindler said they are currently averaging 56.41 secure and staff secure beds, so they are under what the Chinn Plan predicted.

Schindler indicated there is a 3% increase in the YSC's budget this year with no significant changes. She also asked for additional client nursing services in the amount of \$30,600 with no change in the total expense budget.

The Board agreed the contract with the City needs to be looked at with regard to boarding contracts because it hasn't been looked at since 1989.

Juvenile Court (623)

Present were Juvenile Court Judges Tom Dawson; Lesli Lee, Bailiff; Judge Linda Porter, Theresa Emmert, Bailiff; Judge Toni Thorson, and Dianne Paul, Bailiff.

Judge Dawson reported the other contracted services have increased including Abuse & Neglect cases, Law Violators and Status Offenders. He also noted there has been an increase in attorney's fees.

Dawson indicated he does not foresee a fourth Judge being elected for a couple more years. He also noted legal fees have increased significantly and the Judges felt that the Public Defender's Office could represent the clients at lesser cost.

Heier said he will review this with the Public Defender.

Kroeker distributed documentation regarding a letter from LIBA inviting a representative from the County Board to speak at the June 20, 2006 monthly luncheon (Exhibit H).

The Board agreed to discuss the following:

- A possible new jail
- Pavement on roads
- Capital Expenditures
- Increase in Justice funding

County Board (601)

No significant changes were reported.

Information Services (610)

Kroeker reported \$58,400 will be paid to City Finance for PeopleSoft maintenance. Training costs for Joyce Davidson will be adjusted because training will be provided onsite.

Budget & Fiscal (611)

Kroeker indicated the only changes will be regarding his retirement on January 15, 2007 and the hiring of a new Budget & Fiscal Director. He said he will work part-time until June 30, 2007 and depending on the workload he will use his vacation balance and be flexible when the person is hired.

Administrative Services (613)

Kroeker noted they need to review the portion the City reimburses the County for the Joint Receptionist, otherwise no significant changes were reported.

Justice System (628)

No significant changes were reported.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. Heier, Workman, Schorr and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

Patricia Owen
Chief Deputy County Clerk